

Message Text

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ACTION INT-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 IO-13 CIAE-00 INR-07
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FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6832
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 1769

DEPT PASS USGS, ROME FOR USR/FAO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TGEN, AG, US
SUBJECT: USGS COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

1. COMMERCIAL OFFICER MCARTHUR JULY 17 DELIVERED USGS ACTING ADMINISTRATOR'S LETTER TO HYDRAULICS MINISTER BENCHERIF. LETTER WAS HANDED TO MINISTRY LEGAL AND FINANCIAL COUNSELLOR MOHAMMAD MERAD AND MINISTRY'S NEW DIRECTOR FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS YOUNCED STAMBOULI. ALTHOUGH MERAD AND STAMBOULI PROMISED TO DELIVER LETTER TO MINISTER, THEY IMPLIED DOUBT THAT HE WOULD SIGN IT.

2. MINISTER APPARENTLY NOW BELIEVES HE HAS HIS ACT TOGETHER AND IS PREPARING GET MINISTRY MOVING. AS FIRST STEP, HE HAS ORDERED REVIEW OF ALL EXISTING CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS AND RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF PRIORITIES IN LIGHT OF MINISTRY'S EXPANDED MANDATE AND LIMITED FINANCIAL RESOURCES. STAMBOULI EXPLAINED THAT LAND DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT WERE TO RECEIVE EQUAL EMPHASIS, THOUGH NOT NECESSARILY EQUAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES, UNDER NEW MINISTRY. HE WONDERED ALOUD WHETHER REVIEW MIGHT NOT RESULT IN MINISTRY'S REQUESTING MODIFICATION OF USGS AGREEMENT TO INCLUDE RESPONSIBILITIES OF EXPANDED MINISTRY OR, CONVERSELY, CONTRACTION OF AGREEMENT TO
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CONCENTRATE ONLY
ON WATER RESOURCES WITH SEPARATE AGREEMENTS FOR OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES OF MINISTRY.

3. MCARTHUR EXPLAINED THAT USGS WAS USG AGENCY INVOLVED IN REMOTE SENSING TECHNOLOGY IN NEARLY ALL CIVILIAN APPLICATIONS AND THAT IT

LOGICAL ENTITY UNDERTAKE EXPANDED PROGRAM IF THIS DEEMED NECESSARY BY GOA. MCARTHUR ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT WE WELCOMED MINISTRY'S REVIEW OF AGREEMENT. PERHAPS REVIEW MIGHT EVEN INCLUDE CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF EXPANDING AGREEMENT TO INCLUDE COOPERATION WITH SUCH GOA ENTITIES AS NATIONAL CARTOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE. STAMBOULI SAID THIS GOOD IDEA AND THEY CERTAINLY WOULD CONSIDER IT. FINALLY, MCARTHUR SAID IT APPEARED BEST WAY PROCEED WOULD BE FOR MINISTRY CRYSTALIZE ITS IDEAS ON WHAT IT WISHED AGREEMENT TO ACCOMPLISH, THEN MEET WITH MORGAN AND OTHER USGS OFFICIALS AT MUTUALLY AGREEABLE TIME AND PLACE TO DECIDE WHETHER AND HOW THESE GOALS COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED.

4. STAMBOULI AND MERAD AGREED THIS GOOD GENERAL APPROACH. THEY UNDERSTAND WE WAITING FOR RESPONSE FROM THEM, AND THEY PROMISED TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH EMBASSY AS THEIR THOUGHTS DEVELOP.

5. MEETING WAS RELAXED AND FRIENDLY. ALTHOUGH REFERENCE WAS MADE TO MORGAN'S ABORTIVE VISIT, NO REAL EXPLANATION WAS GIVEN FOR FAILURE TO RECEIVE HIM. SUBJECT WAS ALLOWED TO DROP WITH MINIMUM EMBARRASSMENT. IT APPARENT THAT MERAD WAS ONE OF VERY FEW TO SURVIVE BENCHERIF'S PURGE AND THAT PURGE WAS AT ITS HEIGHT DURING MORGAN VISIT. STAMBOULI COMES TO MINISTRY FROM ALGERIA'S EMBASSY IN ROME, WHERE HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR LIAISON WITH FAO. AS RESULT HE CONVERSANT WITH REMOTE SENSING, AT LEAST INSOFAR AS APPLIED BY CONFIDENTIAL

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FAO.

6. FOR ROME: SINCE EMBASSY MAY BE DEALING WITH STAMBOULI FOR SOME TIME, ANY BIO OR PERSONAL COMMENTS YOU MIGHT HAVE ON HIM WOULD BE APPRECIATED. HE CLAIMS ACQUAINTANCE WITH FORMER ALGIERS ECON OFFICER HIGGINSON NOW WITH USR/FAO.HAYNES

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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